

**Belmont Council on Aging
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010**

Attendance: Diana Dick, Neil Hegarty, Henry Kazarian, Anne Lougee, Michael Cahalane, Angela S. Mullin, Judy Morrison, Joel Semuels, Phyl Solomon, Ethel Hamann, Chair.

Staff: Nava Niv-Vogel, COA Director

* Minutes of the meeting of February 1, 2010. On a motion by Phyl Solomon, seconded by Henry Kazarian, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

* In addition to the written report the Director reported the following:

* A new service may be being made available in Belmont. Called Elder Service, this is a manage care format for long term and social services, administered by the Cambridge Health Alliance. It is a program which has been operating in a number of communities and filling a big gap. The service was and will continue to be discussed in the bi-monthly, inter-agency group Nava conducts called A.C.E., Action for Community Elderly. Another concept for home support services for the elderly, called naturally occurring retirement communities, may also be coming to Belmont soon. The organization called Cambridge at Home, will met with Nava, and they will be holding an informational session for seniors at the center about this possibility.

* It was noted that there is a growing problem with missing flat ware in the kitchen following each daily lunch. The Director will be taking steps to try to remedy this situation.

* There is no new budget information at this time. The annual budget will not be taken up at the Annual Town Meeting in April but will be dealt with at a June Town Meeting.

* Friends of the COA.

* At the last Friends meeting the board voted to fund folding chairs, which were identified as a need in several of the exercise classes, and a flat screen TV.

*The Friends continue to receive donations. Recently the Friends received the proceeds from a senior's life insurance policy which he bequeathed to them before his death.

The Friends will be producing another newsletter in the spring.

* Website development. Judy, Diana and Nava will work as a 'working group' to consider website development. The Friends may be the sponsoring organization for the site.

* Joel reported briefly on meeting with the Town Treasurer regarding a fund for capital improvements needs in the future. While this is a constructive proposal a good deal of work needs to be done before any possible implementation.

* On a motion by Neil Hegarty, seconded by Diana Dick, it was unanimously voted to pursue continuation of a check-off on tax bills for the Beech Street Center maintenance fund.

* Note was made of the concert by the Apollo Men's Chorus concert on Saturday, March 25th at 2:00 P.M. at the Beach Street Center sponsored by the Cambridge Trust Co.

* Note was made that there is no change in the school department policy of charging students for participation in the Community Service program. This will continue to be discussed with the School Committee for a possible change in policy to encourage students to continue to be involved in service projects.

* The issue of providing discounts for activities at the Beech Street Center for volunteers was discussed, with a suggestion that the issue be further explored and returned for discussion. Nava will circulate a request from other COA directors on their handling of this issue, via the weekly MCOA on-line bulletin board.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Hegarty,
Clerk for March, 2010